

## ABIDE IN HIM



*I received this testimony from a friend of mine who is a missionary in an undisclosed location due to the political climate where his family is serving. I hope it encourages you as much as it encouraged me.*

*Pastor John*

From a missionary:

I was recently asked a question that caused me to reflect, and I would like to share the question and my reflections in the hope that you will be encouraged.

The question from a fellow believer was about how we continue to follow God in difficult situations. That is a fair question. Our family has been in many difficult situations that are unfamiliar to many in the Western Church. My response was that God provides for wild birds and clothes wildflowers so surely, He will be with us no matter the situation. He has always provided for us. But I do not think that is the part we often struggle with...

Really, I think the harder question has to do with not knowing what comes next. Many of the things God has had our family do over the years makes little sense to us or to our culture. Especially if we are expecting a "typical" life of working, raising children, retiring, and dying. There is nothing wrong with this life. This is exactly what God has called many to do - it is the same life our family is called to live just in a different context. But it is easy to forget there is a call above all those things in our lives. The call to abide in Him, listen to His voice and obey Him throughout all these stages of life as a family no matter where He has placed us geographically.

When we do this, sometimes He commands us to do things that do not make sense to us and He does not always share a detailed plan, give a hint at what comes after that, or offer any type of explanation at all. I think this is what causes us the most discomfort. Not knowing the details or what the outcome will be. Some of the best advice we every received from a fellow cross-cultural church planter was that if you cannot see very far down the path God has given you then just "go as far as you can see."

## ABIDE IN HIM (CONT'D)



No need to make guesses as to the details of the plan - we just stay focused on going as far as He has commanded us to go.

Throughout the years He sometimes lets us look back and see what He was doing during those times. Sometimes we look back and still have no idea what He accomplished during a particular time. Making plans and making sure everything works out is His responsibility and promise. Our part is to abide, listen and obey.

Is this simple? Yes.

Is it easy? Rarely.

And this is why He has promised to always be with us even to the end.

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*Please be in prayer for all missionaries, remembering some serve in dangerous places.*

*Pastor John*